

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of the present response, claims 13 and 20 will have been amended to enhance clarity and all pending claims 13-28 are being resubmitted for consideration by the Examiner. In addition new claims 29-31 are being submitted.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Turning to the merits of the action, the Examiner has rejected claims 13-18 and 20-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by HAYASHI (U.S. Patent No. 6,862,114) in view of MATSUBARA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,545,768). The Examiner also has rejected claims 19 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over HAYASHI in view of MATSUBARA et al. and YOSHIDA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,031,179).

The Examiner has also rejected claims 13-18 and 20-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by HAYASHI (U.S. Patent No. 6,862,114) in view of SAITO (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,101) which is commonly assigned with the present application. The Examiner also has rejected claims 19 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over HAYASHI in view of SAITO and YOSHIDA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,031,179).

By the present response, Applicant has amended claims 13 and 20 and submitted the same for reconsideration by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections based on pending claims 13-28 and will discuss the rejections with respect to the pending claims in the present application, as will be set forth hereinbelow. The amended claims merely clarify

the subject matter recited in the rejected claims, but do not narrow the scope of the claims, and thus do not give rise to any prosecution history estoppel.

Applicant's claims 13-19 generally relate to a receiving Internet facsimile apparatus connectable to a mail server via a network. The receiving Internet facsimile apparatus includes a communicator that receives, from the mail server via the network, a single e-mail to which a plurality of pages of image data are attached, and a decoder that decodes the plurality of pages of the image data attached to the single e-mail. The receiving Internet facsimile apparatus has a memory that stores the plurality of pages of the decoded image data. The receiving Internet facsimile apparatus further has a controller that determines whether the memory overflows due to the reception of the single e-mail, and stops receiving the single e-mail when it is determined that the memory overflows due to the reception of the single e-mail.

The receiving Internet facsimile apparatus, when the single e-mail is re-received from the mail server after the stop in receiving of the single e-mail, re-receives the single e-mail to which the plurality of pages of the image data are attached, determine that a predetermined page was not stored in the memory when the single e-mail was previously received from the mail server. The receiving Internet facsimile apparatus decodes the predetermined page of the image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, and stores, in the memory, the predetermined page of the decoded image data attached to a re-received single e-mail. The predetermined page is distinct from any of the plurality of pages of the image data previously received from the mail server.

Claims 20-26 recite generally related methods.

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 13 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HAYASHI in view of MATSUBARA et al., Applicant initially notes that HAYASHI merely teaches that a conventional reception-side facsimile apparatus 1) receives,

as an NSS signal, a value of the previous number of transmitted sheets, 2) stores all retransmission image data, and 3) deletes all image data for the previous transmission (*see, e.g.*, column 16, lines 60-65).

However, Applicant submits that HAYASHI does not disclose the claimed receiving Internet facsimile apparatus which, when the single e-mail is re-received from the mail server after the stop in receiving of the single e-mail, re-receives the single e-mail to which the plurality of pages of the image data are attached, determines that a predetermined page was not stored in the memory when the single e-mail was previously received from the mail server, decodes the predetermined page of the image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, and stores, in the memory, the predetermined page of the decoded image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, the predetermined page being distinct from any of the plurality of pages of the image data previously received from the mail server.

Rather, HAYASHI merely discloses a reception-side conventional facsimile apparatus which receives, as an NSS signal, a value of the previous number of transmitted sheets, re-receives and stores all retransmission image data, and deletes all image data for the previous transmission. (*see, e.g.*, column 13, lines 50-53 and column 16, lines 59-67). Thus, the retransmission disclosed by HAYASHI is rather inefficient.

Moreover, the Examiner's reliance on HAYASHI (column 3, lines 1-10) for a teaching of storing a predetermined page of image data attached to the mail when the mail is re-received is submitted to be in error. In particular, HAYASHI teaches storing all of the pages of retransmitted data together with "discrimination data" that is added to the image data to discriminate between image data which is already transmitted and image data which is not yet transmitted.

In this regard, the Examiner asserts that “HAYASHI disclosed storing the page of image data (HAYASHI-Column 3 Lines 1-10) and remembering which pages were transmitted successfully (HAYASHI-Column 4 lines 20-25)”. However, Applicant submits that HAYASHI merely teaches that a transmission-side conventional facsimile apparatus transmits, as an NSS signal, a value of the previous number of transmitted sheets, and transmits “all” documents (*see, e.g.,* column 15, lines 36-67 (particularly lines 53) and Figs. 9A and 9B).

Applicant also submits that HAYASHI merely teaches that a reception-side conventional facsimile apparatus receives, as the NSS signal, a value of the previous number of transmitted sheets, and receives and stores all retransmission image data (*see, e.g.,* column 16, lines 1-67 and Figs. 10 and 11). In other words, HAYASHI merely discloses a reception-side conventional facsimile apparatus which stores all retransmission image data (*see, e.g.,* column 16, lines 62-63), not a “predetermined page” as defined in the pending claims. In other words, HAYASHI does not contain any disclosure regarding storing, in the memory, a “predetermined” page of the decoded image data (as opposed to storing all the retransmitted image data), as recited in at least claim 13. In particular, in a case of Fig.10, data indicating retransmission are added to the previously received image data (S408), and all the retransmitted image data including the previously received image data are output (S409). In a case of Fig.11, all the retransmitted image data including the previously received image data are stored in a memory (S419), and the previously received image data are deleted by an instruction of a user (S422-S424). All the retransmitted image data including the previously received image data are output (S425), when there is no instruction of a user to delete the previously received image data (column 16, lines 55-58).

On the other hand, in the pending claims, a receiving Internet facsimile apparatus determines that a predetermined page was not stored in the memory when the single e-mail was previously received from the mail server, and decodes the predetermined page of the image data attached to a re-received single e-mail. Further, the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus stores, in the memory, the predetermined page of the decoded image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, the predetermined page being distinct from any of the plurality of pages of the image data previously received from the mail server.

As discussed above, HAYASHI merely teaches that a conventional reception-side facsimile apparatus 1) receives, as an NSS signal, a value of the previous number of transmitted sheets, 2) stores all retransmission image data, and 3) deletes all image data for the previous transmission (*see, e.g.*, column 16, lines 60-65).

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner asserted that the controller of HAYASHI determines whether the memory overflows during the reception of the e-mail and stops to receive the e-mail when it is determined that the memory overflows. The Examiner relies on column 11 lines 40 through 45 of HAYASHI for this feature. However the Examiner is incorrect in his interpretation of this portion of the HAYASHI disclosure. In particular, when a memory full event occurs, HAYASHI teaches sequentially deleting data which has been transmitted, not stopping the reception of the single e-mail, as recited. Otherwise, when it "is not sure whether it can release the memory" compression processing is stopped and the reading procedure is abnormally terminated. The contrast between Applicant's claimed recitation and HAYASHI can additionally be seen in figure 3 of HAYASHI. In particular, when a memory full occurs at S143, termination will only occur if there is no transmission taking place at S143. Thus

receiving (i.e. reading) the of the e-mail does not stop in response to a memory full but stops in response to a determination that transmission is not taking place (i.e. S144:NO).

HAYASHI is directed towards transmission errors, rather than towards a stoppage in transmission in response a memory full condition. While, as noted by the Examiner, HAYASHI does mention a memory full condition, the response thereto is not the response recited in Applicant's claims. In other words, HAYASHI does not stop transmission in response to a memory full condition. Hayashi stops transmission, and performs a retransmission operation, in response to a transmission abnormality.

For each of these reasons individually as well as for all of these reasons in combination, it is respectfully submitted that HAYASHI contains a disclosure that is inadequate with respect to the recitations of Applicants' pending claims.

Thus, the pending claims are clearly distinguished over HAYASHI.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Applicant's independent claims 13 and 20 are not disclosed in HAYASHI cited by the Examiner.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner relies upon MATSUBARA et al. to supply the admitted shortcomings of HAYASHI. MATSUBARA et al. relates to an image transmitting apparatus connectable with a first network and a second network. The image transmitting apparatus transmits image data of a document to an external image receiving apparatus through one of the first and the second networks and retransmits the image data of the document to the external image receiving apparatus through the remaining one of the first and the second networks.

MATSUBARA et al. relates to an apparatus that can utilize either conventional facsimile transmission or electronic transmission. In various embodiments, MATSUBARA et al. teaches

selectively transmitting data by either one of facsimile transmission or electronic mail communication. Additionally, MATSUBARA et al. teaches transmitting through one of the above mechanisms and retransmitting via a second of the above mechanisms. However, MATSUBARA et al. does not relate to an memory full error induced retransmission system. MATSUBARA also does not relate the retransmission after a stoppage in transmission or retransmission via a same transmission system. This, however, is a significant feature of the present invention. Thus, the teachings of MATSUBARA et al are not directed to the same problem or environment to which Applicant's invention is directed nor even to a problem or environment similar to that disclosed by HAYASHI.

In particular, MATSUBARA et al. does not disclose a controller that determines whether the memory overflows due to the reception of a single e-mail, and stops receiving the single e-mail when it is determined that the memory overflows due to the reception of a single e-mail. Rather, in the transmitting operation of MATSUBARA et al., when the image transmitting apparatus transmits image data of a facsimile document to a recipient, and, e.g. the telephone line is busy, the facsimile document with an ID added is transmitted to a mail address of the recipient as electronic mail (see Fig. 4 S3 and S8, column 7, lines 61-63 and column 8, lines 12-15).

In the receiving operation of MATSUBARA et al., the facsimile apparatus receives, from the transmitting facsimile apparatus, the facsimile document as electronic mail, and determines whether the image data of the facsimile document corresponding to the received ID is received or not. When the image data has already been received, the image data is discarded from memory unit (column 9, lines 7-20). In other words, in MATSUBARA et al., the receiving apparatus merely determines whether the facsimile document has already been received as electronic mail,

according to the ID added to the facsimile document. However, memory overflow due to the reception of the single e-mail is not disclosed.

Thus, MATSUBARA et al. does not disclose a controller that determines whether the memory overflows due to the reception of the single e-mail, and stops receiving the single e-mail when it is determined that the memory overflows due to the reception of the single e-mail.

MATSUBARA et al. also does not disclose a controller, when the single e-mail is re-received from the mail server after the stop in receiving of the single e-mail, being further configured to re-receive the single e-mail to which the plurality of pages of the image data are attached, to determine that a predetermined page was not stored in the memory when the single e-mail was previously received from the mail server, to decode the predetermined page of the image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, and to store, in the memory, the predetermined page of the decoded image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, the predetermined page being distinct from any of the plurality of pages of the image data previously received from the mail server.

Rather, in the receiving operation of MATSUBARA et al., the facsimile apparatus receives, from the transmitting facsimile apparatus, the facsimile document as electronic mail, and determines whether the image data of the facsimile document corresponding to the received ID is received or not. When the image data has already been received, the image data is discarded from memory unit (column 9, lines 7-20).

On the other hand, when the image data is not received (S32:NO), printout is performed according to (i.e., based upon) the image data. Thus, according to MATSUBARA et al., the dual transmission modes (i.e., facsimile and electronic) serve as a backup to each other.

In other words, in MATSUBARA et al., the receiving apparatus determines whether the entire facsimile document is already received as electronic mail, according to the ID added to the facsimile document, and discards all of the image data of the facsimile document corresponding to the ID when it is determined that the image data is already received. Thus, MATSUBARA et al. discards all the image data of the facsimile document corresponding to the ID, since the ID is not added to each of a plurality of pages of image data attached to a single e-mail. Therefore, MATSUBARA et al. does not disclose a controller that, when the single e-mail is re-received from the mail server after the stop in receiving of the single e-mail, being further configured to re-receive the single e-mail to which the plurality of pages of the image data are attached, to determine that a predetermined page was not stored in the memory when the single e-mail was previously received from the mail server, to decode the predetermined page of the image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, and to store, in the memory, the predetermined page of the decoded image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, the predetermined page being distinct from any of the plurality of pages of the image data previously received from the mail server.

In this regard, the Examiner asserts in the Official Action mailed on April 20, 2007 and November 5, 2007 that MATSUBARA disclose a controller that stores, in the memory, a predetermined page of the decoded image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, since MATSUBARA discloses a memory unit for storing a control program and also storing image data of an e-mail facsimile document (col.10, lines 10-25). However, MATSUBARA fails to disclose a controller that stores, in the memory, a predetermined page of the decoded image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, “when the single e-mail is re-received from the mail server after the stop in receiving of the single e-mail”, since MATSUBARA merely teaches a

memory unit 34 that stores a control program, received data, and image data of facsimile document. In other words, MATSUBARA does not contain any disclosure regarding “when” a controller that stores, in the memory, a predetermined page of the decoded image data attached to a re-received single e-mail.

Thus, the pending claims are also clearly distinguished over MATSUBARA et al.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Applicant’s independent claims 13 and 20 are not disclosed in MATSUBARA et al. cited by the Examiner. The pending claims are also submitted to be patentable over the Examiner’s proposed combination, since neither HAYASHI nor MATSUBARA et al., either taken alone or in any proper combination, discloses the features recited in Applicants’ claims 13-18 and 20-25.

Furthermore, with respect to the Examiner's rejection of dependent claims 19 and 26 based on HAYASHI in view of MATSUBARA et al. and YOSHIDA et al., Applicant submits that dependent claims 19 and 26 are respectively dependent from shown-to-be allowable independent claims 13 and 20, which are allowable for at least the reasons discussed supra. Thus, these dependent claims are also allowable for at least the reasons discussed supra. Further, these and all dependent claims set forth a further combination of elements and/or features neither taught nor disclosed by any proper combination of the applied references.

In addition to the above, Applicant further notes that YOSHIDA et al. is directed to a facsimile apparatus that is not capable of receiving or transmitting e-mail. In other words, the “data communication apparatus” of YOSHIDA et al. is not an Internet facsimile apparatus. Thus YOSHIDA is unrelated to an e-mail to which a plurality of pages of image data are attached.

Moreover, the asserted basis for the combination of the teachings of YOSHIDA et al. with those of HAYASHI and MATSUBARA et al. cannot justify a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 since it is based on the Examiner's speculation rather than logical reasoning. Moreover, there is no need, in either of the two primary references, for a determination of whether to continue transmitting a selected portion of data or to discontinue retransmission and proceed with transmission of the next portion of data, which is a crucial feature of the YOSHIDA disclosure. For this additional reason, there is no logical reason for combining the disclosures of the three references relied upon by the Examiner. This is not a proper basis for a combination rejection.

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 13 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HAYASHI in view of SAITO, HAYASHI relates to a conventional facsimile apparatus, as previously discussed.

In particular, Applicant, as previously noted, respectfully submits that HAYASHI merely teaches a conventional reception-side facsimile apparatus that 1) receives, as an NSS signal, a value of the previous number of transmitted sheets, 2) stores all retransmission image data, and 3) deletes all image data for the previous transmission (*see, e.g.*, column 16, lines 60-65).

However, HAYASHI fails to disclose the claimed receiving Internet facsimile apparatus which, when the single e-mail is re-received from the mail server after the stop in receiving of the single e-mail, re-receives the single e-mail to which the plurality of pages of the image data are attached, determines that a predetermined page was not stored in the memory when the single e-mail was previously received from the mail server, decodes the predetermined page of the image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, and stores, in the memory, the predetermined page of the decoded image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, the predetermined page being

distinct from any of the plurality of pages of the image data previously received from the mail server.

Rather, HAYASHI merely discloses a reception-side conventional facsimile apparatus which stores all retransmission image data (*see, e.g.*, column 16, lines 62-63), not a “predetermined page”. In other words, HAYASHI does not contain any disclosure regarding storing, in the memory, a predetermined page of the decoded image data, as recited in at least claim 13.

Additionally, Applicant submits that HAYASHI merely teaches that, in a case of Fig.10, data indicating retransmission are added to the previously received image data (S408), and all the retransmitted image data including the previously received image data are output (S409). HAYASHI also merely teaches that, in a case of Fig.11, all the retransmitted image data including the previously received image data are stored in a memory (S419), and the previously received image data are deleted by an instruction of a user (S422-S424), while all the retransmitted image data including the previously received image data are output (S425), when there is no instruction of a user to delete the previously received image data (column 16, lines 55-58). As previously noted, the operational mode of HAYASHI is substantially less efficient than that recited in the pending claims.

On the other hand, in the pending claims, a receiving Internet facsimile apparatus determines that a predetermined page was not stored in the memory when the single e-mail was previously received from the mail server, and decodes the predetermined page of the image data attached to a re-received single e-mail. Further, the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus stores, in the memory, the predetermined page of the decoded image data attached to a re-received single

e-mail, the predetermined page being distinct from any of the plurality of pages of the image data previously received from the mail server.

As discussed above, HAYASHI merely teaches that a conventional reception-side facsimile apparatus 1) receives, as an NSS signal, a value of the previous number of transmitted sheets, 2) stores all retransmission image data, and 3) deletes all image data for the previous transmission (*see, e.g.*, column 16, lines 60-65).

Thus, the pending claims are clearly distinguished over HAYASHI.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Applicant's independent claims 13 and 20 are not disclosed in HAYASHI cited by the Examiner.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner relies upon (commonly-assigned) SAITO to supply the shortcomings of HAYASHI. SAITO relates to an e-mail type facsimile apparatus which leaves unacceptable mail in a mail server, and stores the left mail number, message ID of the latest mail as left mail number K and left mail ID. In the next access operation, the e-mail type facsimile apparatus acquires the message ID of the Kth mail stored in the mail server and compares it with the left mail ID. When both IDs match, the e-mail type facsimile apparatus receives the "K+1"th and subsequent pieces of mail from the mail server.

However, SAITO does not disclose the claimed receiving Internet facsimile apparatus which determines that a predetermined page was not stored in the memory when the single e-mail was previously received from the mail server, and decodes the predetermined page of the image data attached to a re-received single e-mail. Further, the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus stores, in the memory, the predetermined page of the decoded image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, the predetermined page being distinct from any of the plurality of pages of the image data previously received from the mail server.

Rather, SAITO compares the message ID of the Kth mail stored in the mail server with the left mail ID, and receives the “K+1”th and subsequent pieces of mail from the mail server when there is a match. In other words, SAITO merely receives a next acceptable e-mail and subsequent acceptable e-mails from the mail server, in the next access, as shown in Fig. 8 (*see, e.g.,* column 6, lines 29-67 and column 7, lines 1-15). Thus, SAITO does not disclose storing, in the memory, a predetermined page of the decoded image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, when the single e-mail is re-received from the mail server after the stop in receiving the single e-mail at least since unacceptable mail is not received, decoded and stored in memory even after many receptions from the server since what renders mail unacceptable in SAITO is the format of the mail (rather than a memory overflow), and the format will not change no matter how many receptions of e-mail from the server occur.

Further, claim 13 describes the predetermined page, as a predetermined page of the decoded image data, when the single e-mail is re-received from the mail server after the stop in receiving of the single e-mail. In other words, the predetermined page is a page not received in a previous e-mail reception but is received during a current e-mail reception, as set forth in the last paragraph of claim 13. However, as previously noted, SAITO does not disclose such a feature because in SAITO, unacceptable mail is mail that cannot be received by the device due to format issues or similar problems as described at column 5, lines 15-25. Thus, such unacceptable mail will not be received by the apparatus even after numerous attempted receptions. Further, to repeatedly attempt to receive such unacceptable mail is clearly illogical. In other words, a document which is not received during a first reception will not be received during a second reception as is made explicitly clear by Fig. 8 of SAITO and the disclosure associated therewith.

In his response to arguments (page 26 of the Office Action), the Examiner asserts that “SAITO disclosed a counter for pieces of email (SAITO-Column 6 Lines 35-45, ‘all pieces of email are new incoming mail’), said pieces of email being equivalent to a page an image attachment, in order to avoid repeated reception of previously received email”. However, Applicant submits that this is incorrect. For example, SAITO teaches that “Status I indicates that mail server 3 received two pieces of mail, mail A that can be output and mail B that cannot be output in the initial state when the left mail number (K) =0 and left mail ID (I) is empty” (column 6 lines 33-36). In this case, mail A is distinct from mail B since mail A can be output and mail B cannot be output. In other words, mail A and mail B are NOT a plurality of pages of image data attached to a single e-mail, as recited herein. SAITO also teaches that “Suppose that in status II, new mail C and D have arrived at mail server 3 (Status III) and a second inquiry is made in this state. Mail C can be output and mail D that cannot be output” (column 6 lines 48-51). In this case, mail C is also distinct from mail D since mail C can be output and mail D cannot be output. In other words, mail C and mail D are NOT a plurality of pages of image data attached to a single e-mail.

On the other hand, the pending claims recite a single e-mail to which a plurality of pages of image data attached. Thus, SAITO discloses a counter for pieces of email. However, the pieces of email are NOT equivalent to a plurality of pages of image data attached to a single e-mail. Rather, each of the pieces of emails is a different email from the others. Therefore, SAITO fails to disclose the receiving Internet facsimile apparatus which determines that a predetermined page was not stored in the memory when the single e-mail was previously received from the mail server, decodes the predetermined page of the image data attached to a re-received single e-mail, and stores, in the memory, the predetermined page of the decoded image

data attached to a re-received single e-mail, the predetermined page being distinct from any of the plurality of pages of the image data previously received from the mail server.

Thus, the pending claims are also clearly distinguished over SAITO.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the features recited in Applicant's independent claims 13 and 20 are not disclosed in SAITO cited by the Examiner. The pending claims are also submitted to be patentable over the Examiner's proposed combination, since neither HAYASHI nor SAITO, either taken alone or in any proper combination, discloses the features recited in Applicants' claims 13-18 and 20-25.

Furthermore, with respect to the Examiner's rejection of dependent claims 19 and 26 based on HAYASHI in view of SAITO and YOSHIDA et al., Applicant submits that dependent claims 19 and 26 are respectively dependent from allowable independent claims 13 and 20, which are allowable for at least the reasons discussed supra. Thus, these dependent claims are also allowable for at least the reasons discussed supra. Further, these and all dependent claims set forth a further combination of elements and/or features neither taught nor disclosed by any proper combination of the applied references.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application, in due course.

By the present response, Applicant has submitted a number of new dependent claims to more clearly and fully emphasize the features of the present invention and which additionally distinguish the same from the combination of references relied upon by the Examiner. In particular, and utilizing claim 29 as a non-limiting example, none of the references cited herein, whether considered individually or whether considered in any proper combination, disclose a

controller that is configured to prevent decoding and storing in memory of image data previously received from the mail server. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to, inter alia, figure 7, and particularly steps 713, 714, 708 and 709. These claims are submitted to provide additional basis for patentability based upon their dependence from a shown to be allowable base claim as well as based upon their respective recitations which are not disclosed or rendered obvious by the disclosures of any of the references relied upon by the Examiner in the outstanding Official Action.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

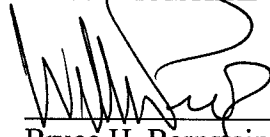
Applicant has amended the rejected claims for consideration by the Examiner. With respect to the pending claims, Applicant has pointed out the features thereof and has contrasted the features of the rejected claims with the disclosure of the references. Accordingly, Applicant has provided a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all claims in the present application and respectfully requests an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application in due course.

The amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

February 5, 2008
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